

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A system for dispensing individual paper products, the system comprising:

a container, the container comprising:

a housing including side walls and a bottom wall defining an interior surface and an interior area within the interior surface;

a cover hingedly or removably attached to the housing wherein the cover defines a dispensing opening;

a spring disposed in the interior area of the housing; and

a plunger disposed in the interior area of the housing wherein the spring is compressed between the plunger and at least one of the walls, and further wherein the plunger is urged toward the dispensing opening by the spring; and

a cartridge containing paper products, the cartridge positioned at least partially within the interior area of the container, the cartridge defining a removable portion, the removable portion being adapted to become separated from the cartridge by contact with the plunger when the cartridge is inserted in the container, removal of the removable portion creating a second opening, wherein after the removable portion is separated from the cartridge the

plunger extends through the second opening into the cartridge to urge the removable portion to contact the paper products and urge the paper products toward the dispensing opening.

2. The system of claim 1 wherein the plunger comprises a truncated cone.

3. The system of claim 2 wherein the truncated cone comprises a bottom surface having a diameter substantially equivalent to the diameter of the spring.

4. The system of claim 2 further wherein the plunger comprises at least one stabilizing wing.

5. The system of claim 4 wherein the at least one stabilizing wing has an outer edge that contacts the inside surface of the housing to prevent the plunger from binding in the housing.

6. The system of claim 1 wherein the removable portion comprises an internal platform in contact with the plunger.

7. The system of claim 6 wherein the internal platform comprises notches to minimize contact of the internal platform with the internal surface of the housing.

8. The system of claim 6 wherein the paper products are urged toward the dispensing opening by the internal platform.

9. The system of claim 8 wherein the internal platform applies substantially constant pressure against the paper products.

10. The system of claim 1 wherein the cartridge comprises cartridge side walls, a first end wall defining a third opening for dispensing the paper products, and a second end wall opposing the first end wall, wherein the removable portion is defined by the second end wall.

11. The system of claim 1 wherein the removable portion comprises at least one flap.

12. The system of claim 1 wherein the removable portion comprises a first flap having a tab and a second flap having a slot, the tab being removably inserted in the slot.

13. The system of claim 1 wherein the removable portion is defined by perforations.

14. The system of claim 1 wherein the container is positioned within a supporting structure.

15. The system of claim 1 wherein the paper products are urged toward the dispensing opening in a substantially vertical direction.

16. A system for dispensing individual paper products, the system comprising:

a container, the container comprising:

a housing including side walls and a bottom wall defining an interior surface and an interior area within the interior surface for receiving a plurality of the paper products;

a cover hingedly or removably attached to the housing wherein the cover defines a dispensing opening; and

a means for elevating paper products; and

a cartridge containing paper products, the cartridge positioned at least partially within the interior area of the container, the cartridge defining a removable portion, the removable portion being adapted to become separated from the cartridge by contact with the means for elevating paper products when the cartridge is inserted in the container, removal of the removable portion creating a second opening, wherein after the removable portion is separated from the cartridge the means for elevating paper products extends through the second opening into the cartridge to urge the removable portion to contact the paper products and urge the paper products toward the dispensing opening.

17. A system for dispensing individual paper products, the system comprising:

a container, the container comprising:

a housing including walls defining an interior surface and an interior area within the interior surface;

a cover wherein the cover defines a dispensing opening;

a spring disposed in the interior area of the housing; and

a plunger disposed in the interior area of the housing wherein the spring is compressed between the plunger and at least one of the walls, and further wherein the plunger is urged toward the dispensing opening by the spring; and

a cartridge containing paper products, the cartridge positioned at least partially within the interior area of the container, the cartridge defining a removable portion, the removable portion capable of becoming separated from the cartridge by contact with the plunger when the cartridge is inserted in the container, separation of the removable portion from the cartridge creating a second opening, wherein after separation of the removable portion from the cartridge the plunger extends through the second opening into the cartridge to urge the removable portion to contact the paper products and urge the paper products toward the dispensing opening.

18. A method for loading paper products in a system for dispensing paper products, the method comprising the steps of:

a) providing a container, the container comprising a housing including side walls and a bottom wall defining an interior surface and an interior area within the interior surface; a cover hingedly or removably attached to the housing wherein the cover defines a dispensing opening; a spring disposed in the interior area of the housing; and a plunger disposed in the interior area of the housing wherein the spring is compressed between the plunger and at least one of the walls, and further wherein the plunger is urged toward the dispensing opening by the spring;

b) providing a cartridge containing paper products, the cartridge defining a removable portion, the removable portion being adapted to become separated from the cartridge by contact with the plunger when the cartridge is inserted in the container; and

c) inserting the cartridge in the container to cause the plunger to separate the removable portion from the cartridge to create a second opening, wherein after the removable portion is separated from the cartridge the plunger extends through the second opening into the cartridge to urge the removable portion to contact the paper

products and urge the paper products toward the dispensing opening.

19. The method of claim 18 wherein the removable portion comprises a first flap having a tab and a second flap having a slot, the tab being removably inserted in the slot.

20. The method of claim 18 wherein the removable portion is defined by perforations.

21. A system for dispensing individual paper products, the system comprising:

a container, the container comprising:

a housing including side walls and a bottom wall defining an interior surface and an interior area within the interior surface;

a cover hingedly or removably attached to the housing wherein the cover defines a dispensing opening;

a spring disposed in the interior area of the housing;

a plunger disposed in the interior area of the housing wherein the spring is compressed between the plunger and at least one of the walls, and further wherein the plunger is urged toward the dispensing opening by the spring; and

at least one internal member anchored to the bottom wall; and

a cartridge containing paper products, the cartridge positioned at least partially within the interior area of the container, the cartridge defining a removable portion, the removable portion being adapted to become separated from the cartridge by contact with the at least one internal member when the cartridge is inserted in the container, removal of the removable portion creating a second opening, wherein after the removable portion is separated from the cartridge the plunger extends through the second opening into the cartridge to urge the removable portion to contact the paper products and urge the paper products toward the dispensing opening.

22. The system of claim 21 wherein the at least one internal member comprises at least one tower.

23. The system of claim 22 wherein the at least one internal tower comprises four towers.

24. The system of claim 23 wherein the towers comprise tops having cross-sectional areas of greater than about 0.5 cm².

25. The system of claim 21 wherein the removable portion comprises an internal platform in contact with the plunger.

26. The system of claim 25 wherein the internal platform comprises notches to minimize contact of the internal platform with the internal surface of the housing.

27. The system of claim 21 wherein the cartridge comprises cartridge side walls, a first end wall defining a third opening for dispensing the paper products, and a second end wall opposing the first end wall, wherein the removable portion is defined by the second end wall.

28. The system of claim 21 wherein the removable portion comprises at least one flap.

29. The system of claim 21 wherein the removable portion comprises a first flap having a tab and a second flap having a slot, the tab being removably inserted in the slot.

30. The system of claim 21 wherein the removable portion is defined by perforations.

31. A system for dispensing individual paper products, the system comprising:

a container, the container comprising:

a housing including side walls and a bottom wall defining an interior surface and an interior area within the interior surface for receiving a plurality of the paper products;

a cover hingedly or removably attached to the housing wherein the cover defines a dispensing opening;

a means for elevating paper products; and

at least one internal member anchored to the bottom wall; and

a cartridge containing paper products, the cartridge positioned at least partially within the interior area of the container, the cartridge defining a removable portion, the removable portion being adapted to become separated from the cartridge by contact with the at least one internal member when the cartridge is inserted in the container, removal of the removable portion creating a second opening, wherein after the removable portion is separated from the cartridge the means for elevating paper products extends through the second opening into the cartridge to urge the removable portion to contact the paper products and urge the paper products toward the dispensing opening.

32. A system for dispensing individual paper products, the system comprising:

a container, the container comprising:

a housing including walls defining an interior surface and an interior area within the interior surface;

a cover wherein the cover defines a dispensing opening;

a spring disposed in the interior area of the housing;

a plunger disposed in the interior area of the housing wherein the spring is compressed between the plunger and at least one of the walls, and further wherein the plunger is urged toward the dispensing opening by the spring; and

at least one internal member anchored to a bottom wall; and

a cartridge containing paper products, the cartridge positioned at least partially within the interior area of the container, the cartridge defining a removable portion, the removable portion capable of becoming separated from the cartridge by contact with the at least one internal member when the cartridge is inserted in the container, separation of the removable portion from the cartridge creating a second opening, wherein after separation of the removable portion from the cartridge the plunger extends through the second opening into the cartridge to urge the removable portion to contact the paper products and urge the paper products toward the dispensing opening.

33. A method for loading paper products in a system for dispensing paper products, the method comprising the steps of:

a) providing a container, the container comprising a housing including side walls and a bottom wall defining an interior surface and an interior area within the interior surface; a cover hingedly or removably attached to the housing wherein the cover defines a dispensing opening; a spring disposed in the interior area of the housing; a plunger disposed in the interior area of the housing wherein the spring is compressed between the plunger and at least one of the walls, and further wherein the plunger is urged toward the dispensing opening by the spring; and at least one internal member anchored to the bottom wall;

b) providing a cartridge containing paper products, the cartridge defining a removable portion, the removable portion being adapted to become separated from the cartridge by contact with the at least one internal member when the cartridge is inserted in the container; and

c) inserting the cartridge in the container to cause the at least one internal member to separate the removable portion from the cartridge to create a second opening, wherein after the removable portion is separated from the cartridge the plunger extends through the second opening

into the cartridge to urge the removable portion to contact the paper products and urge the paper products toward the dispensing opening.

34. The system of claim 33 wherein the at least one internal member comprises at least one tower.

35. The system of claim 34 wherein the at least one internal member comprises four towers.

36. The system of claim 35 wherein the towers comprise tops having cross-sectional areas of greater than about 0.5 cm².

37. The method of claim 33 wherein the removable portion comprises a first flap having a tab and a second flap having a slot, the tab being removably inserted in the slot.

38. The method of claim 33 wherein the removable portion is defined by perforations.